GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PLANNING
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1609
ANSWERED ON:28.11.2001
INCREASE IN POVERTY
LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned `Desh Me Bhadh Rahi He Garibe` appeared in the `Nav Bharat Times` on November 2, 2001;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto; and (

(c) the steps taken by the Government to remove poverty during the last three years alongwith the success achieved in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY O PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES & PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTE OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENEGRY AND DEPARTMENT OF SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE)

(a) : Yes, Sir. The news item appearing in the Nav Bharat Times has mentioned about the increase in rural poverty between 1991 and 1997 and that the burden of poverty falls more on the women.

(b): The basis of the poverty estimates noted in the above news item has been given as the 53rd Report of the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO).The Planning Commission estimates the percentage of persons living below the poverty line at national and state level from the large sample surveys on consumer expenditure conducted by the National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO) at aninterval of approximately five years. The two latest such surveys were conducted in 1993-94 and 1999-2000. During 1991 and 1997 the NSSO carried out `thin`sample surveys, which are not used by the Planning Commission to estimate the incidence of poverty. As such, official estimates of number of persons living below the poverty line in the year 1991 or 1997 are not available. The percentage persons living below the poverty line calculated from 50th Round large sample survey on consumer expenditure conducted by the NSSO in 1993-94 was 37.27% in rural areas. The data from the latest large survey of the 55th Round on a 30-day recall basis indicate 27.09% of the rural population lived below the poverty line in 1999- 2000.

(c) : There is a three-pronged action to alleviate and reduce the poverty in the country. These are:
(i) acceleration of economic growth,
(ii) human, and social development through literacy, education, health, nutrition, meeting of the minimum needs, elevation of social and economic status of the weaker sections of the society, etc., and
(iii) direct attack on poverty through employment and income generating programmes and assets-building for the poor.